

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 11687 021429Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR

SUBJECT: GOG COMMENTS ON U.S. ELECTIONS

1. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE GREEK INTEREST IN THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AND THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL STORIES IN THE ATHENS NEWS MEDIA DURING THE PAST TEN DAYS OR SO. REPORTS FROM THE U.S. ON THE ELECTIONS HAVE INCLUDED DESPATCHES FROM SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS SENT THERE TO COVER THE ELECTIONS, INCLUDING EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH THE CANDIDATES. ALTHOUGH THE COVERAGE HAS BEEN OF BOTH CANDIDATES, SPECIAL EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED IN MOST REPORTS ON THE STATEMENTS OF GOVERNOR CARTER ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AND U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS GENERALLY.

2. ON THE EVE OF THE ELECTIONS, "A GOVERNMENT SOURCE" COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM GREEK AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 2: "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DID NOT, AND SHOULD NOT, HAVE ANY INVOLVEMENT WHATSOEVER IN THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS."

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 11687 021429Z

3. A GOVERNMENT SOURCE ALSO CLARIFIED, ACCORDING TO THE ANA

BULLETIN, THAT SENATOR KENNEDY (WHO IS EXPECTED TO VISIT ATHENS NOVEMBER 8-11), WILL NOT COME HERE AS THE GUEST OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT (AS CLAIMED IN EARLIER PRESS REPORTS) BUT AS THE GUEST OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE SENATOR. THE SOURCE ADDED THAT THE INVITATION IS A LONG-STANDING ONE AND THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED HE WOULD COME TO GREECE ONLY AFTER THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS "IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS."
KUBISCH

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